



# The Raleigh Amateur Radio Society's **EXCITER**

## GET INVOLVED

- RARS General Membership meeting: First Tuesday of the month.
- The RARS net meets every night @ 8 p.m. on 146.640.
- The RARS Technical & Trader's net: Saturdays @ 8:30 p.m. or following the RARS net.
- RARS meets for a monthly dinner on the 2nd Tuesday of each month.

## Join Us!

Come hear the author of *WWII Radio Heroes: Letters of Compassion*, Lisa Spahr, talk about the letters her family received alerting them to her grandfather's capture and status as a prisoner of war.



**What:** Next RARS General meeting

**Date:** Tuesday, Sept. 4, 2012

**Time:** 7:30 p.m.

**Where:** First Alliance Church, 4400 Buffaloe Road, Raleigh, NC

*There will also be VE testing this evening  
(see page 3 for details).*

## Upcoming Public Service Events

**Bike MS, New Bern, NC ♦ Sept. 8-9**

**Ride Without Limits, Moncure, NC ♦ Sept. 15-16**

**Tour d'Orange, Hillsborough, NC ♦ Sept. 22**

**City of Oaks Marathon, Raleigh, NC ♦ Nov. 4**

**Makin' Room For Turkey Ride ♦ Nov. 18**

Visit <http://rars.org/public-service.php> to learn more.



## RARS Officers

### PRESIDENT

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## The Raleigh Amateur Radio Society

The Raleigh Amateur Radio Society, Inc. (RARS) was founded in 1969 and continues to serve and support the amateur radio community in the greater Triangle area. In 1999, the society incorporated a new RARS and obtained 501(c)(3) non-profit tax status.

The objectives of the club are to promote worldwide friendship through amateur radio; to be of public service by providing radio communications in times of disaster, emergency, or civic needs; to educate members in radio technique, and to provide training classes to assist in obtaining amateur radio licenses.



Anyone interested in amateur radio is eligible to apply for membership. Dues for regular licensed amateurs are \$18 per year (from July 1 through June 30). Additional immediate family members pay \$5 each per year. Dues for licensed amateurs older than 59 or younger than 16 are \$12 per year. Dues for non-licensed associate members are \$9 per year. Applications for membership may be obtained from the treasurer or on the RARS website ([www.rars.org](http://www.rars.org)).

## Exciter

The *Exciter* is the official newsletter of the Raleigh Amateur Radio Society. It appears each month as a PDF on the RARS website at [www.rars.org](http://www.rars.org). Members receive email notification when the latest version is available. Please provide your email address to the Treasurer.

The *Exciter* welcomes articles, advertisements, and other contributions. To submit a piece to the newsletter, please contact the Editor. The Editor reserves the right to edit any and all pieces. The submission deadline for each month's *Exciter* is the third Friday of the preceding month. All submissions must be final. Drafts are not accepted.

The views expressed in the *Exciter* are those of the individual authors and do not necessarily reflect the views of the Editor or RARS.

Cathy Downs, KA3QPU, editor ([editor@rars.org](mailto:editor@rars.org))

## For Your Information

### RARS General Meeting

**Date:** First Tuesday of each month

**Location:** First Alliance Church  
4400 Buffaloe Road  
Raleigh, NC

**Time:** People begin arriving at 7 p.m.  
The meeting officially begins at 7:30 p.m.

### RARS Monthly Dinner

Join us on the second Tuesday of each month for the RARS dinner. It's open to everyone: RARS members, non-members, friends, and family. Feel free to bring your little ones! Dinner begins at 6:30 p.m.

Listen to the nightly RARS net and check [www.rars.org](http://www.rars.org) for details on the next dinner's location.

### RARS Repeaters in Raleigh

146.640 & 443.625 (88.5 PL)

Join us for the nightly RARS net at 8 p.m. on the 146.640 repeater. All hams holding a Technician class license or higher are invited to check in. We welcome both RARS and non-RARS members to the net.

### VE Testing

The RARS VEs will accept walk-in testing at the February, May, August, and November RARS meetings; the RARSFest in April; the Cary Swapfest in July; the JARSFest in November; and following RARS license classes.

Please bring a photo ID, your current license, a copy of your current license, your \$14 exam fee, and any CSCEs you have for credit. Visit [www.rars.org](http://www.rars.org) for more information.

## Message from the President

It's hard to believe that summer is almost over! This year, my summer activities included a wedding and family reunion and helping our sons move into new residences. It's great to spend time with family, even when it involves work!

Did you play radio? I did! ARRL Field Day was a blast, and I re-discovered how much fun it is to perform SAG duties during bike events. It was so much fun that I'm putting a VHF/UHF rig in my car and volunteering for the Bike MS: Historic New Bern Ride on September 8<sup>th</sup> and 9<sup>th</sup>. How about you?

If you are unable to assist at Bike MS, have you considered participating in one of the other public service opportunities for this fall? There is the Ride Without Limits, Moncure, NC (9/15-16); the Tour d'Orange, Hillsborough, NC (9/22); the City of Oaks Marathon, Raleigh, NC (11/4); and, the Makin' Room For Turkey Ride (11/18).

To volunteer, click on "Public Service" at the RARS website, [www.rars.org](http://www.rars.org), or contact John AI4RT at [ai4rt@hotmail.com](mailto:ai4rt@hotmail.com). Thanks!

73, Karl W4CHX

# APRS Update

*By Don Downs, WA4AVU*

Do you have an interest in APRS, the Automatic Packet Reporting System invented by WB4APR? Would you like to be involved with other RARS members who enjoy this aspect of our hobby?

There are several ways to become involved in APRS with little or no cost, using equipment you probably already own. RARS owns three APRS stations that we can loan to interested members and also use in public service events. In addition, several desktop and smart phone applications allow you to join the fun via the Internet.

Last year, we formed a mail list of local amateurs interested in using APRS. Whether you are an expert APRS user, just getting started, or just have an interest in learning more about APRS, please contact me at [WA4AVU@arrl.net](mailto:WA4AVU@arrl.net) to be added to the list.

The mail list has been pretty quiet lately, but I suspect it will soon pick up. At the encouragement of Bill KG4CXY, we have run APRS during the City of Oaks Marathon for the last several years.

This year's marathon is scheduled for November 4. While November may seem like a

long way off, it is really just "right around the corner," which means it's time to start planning for our APRS involvement.

Our goal this year is to use simplex radio,

leaving the 164.64 repeater free for voice



## New RARS Members

|                 |        |
|-----------------|--------|
| John Yarborough | KJ4JAS |
| Pete Benac      | N2BLY  |

## September Birthdays

|         |        |       |
|---------|--------|-------|
| Wilbur  | WD4RDT | 09/03 |
| Andy    | KD4FHF | 09/04 |
| Mary Jo | K4MJL  | 09/05 |
| Lou     | K4BYN  | 09/07 |
| Jack    | N6UYB  | 09/08 |
| Allen   | KK4ETT | 09/08 |
| John    | N4YRB  | 09/12 |
| Sam     | NC4SJ  | 09/13 |
| Al      | KE4IUK | 09/13 |
| Ken     | ND7N   | 09/20 |
| Rod     | KI4LSN | 09/20 |
| Larry   | K4MWE  | 09/22 |
| Steve   | KI4YXJ | 09/25 |
| Justin  | AJ4MJ  | 09/25 |
| David   | AB4MB  | 09/26 |

## Upcoming Hamfests

Shelby, NC, Hamfest ♦ Sept. 1-2  
Virginia Beach Hamfest ♦ Sept. 15  
TEN-TEC Factory Hamfest ♦ Sept. 28-29  
Rock Hill, SC, Hamfest ♦ Oct. 6

communications. We hope to do some practice runs prior to the marathon.

Join the list, and let's start planning!

# Minutes

## Board of Directors Meeting Raleigh Amateur Radio Society July 17, 2012

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**Present:** CJ NC4CJ, Chuck K4HF, Bob W4TTX, Karl W4CHX, Greg KE4PAX, John AI4RT, Ken KI4OTO

**Guests:** Charles WB4DCM (Acting Secretary)

**Apologies and/or emailed reports:** Bob KI4YXM, Selene KG4RMT, Hank K4HM, Marty W4MY, Jack N6UYB

1. **Call to order (Karl W4CHX):** Karl W4CHX called the meeting to order at 7:03 p.m.
2. **Approval of minutes (Karl W4CHX):** After discussing several revisions, the Minutes of the May 15, 2012 and June 19, 2012 meetings of the RARS Board were approved.
3. **Vice President's report (CJ NC4CJ):** CJ NC4CJ updated the Board regarding presentations at the General Membership meetings for the remainder of 2012. The Board discussed several ideas for the format of the December, 2012 meeting. No decisions were made; CJ NC4CJ will continue planning for that meeting.
4. **Treasurer's report (Greg KE4PAX):** Greg KE4PAX reported that RARS has 226 members (new fiscal year). A \$200.00 donation has been received from Lou Alexander, K4BYN. Donations to the Youth Education Fund to commemorate former

RARS members that have become Silent Keys were discussed. Greg KE4PAX will make a list of Silent Keys during 2011 and 2012. The list will be forwarded to Bob KI4YXM to make sure that appropriate notification of the donation has been sent to the family of each Silent Key. As always, if any RARS member has questions regarding the RARS budget, please contact Greg KE4PAX or Karl W4CHX for further information.

5. **Secretary's report (Bob KI4YXM):** No report.
6. **Committee reports:**
  - a. **Public Service Director (John AI4RT):** John AI4RT reported that public service activities are busy; and for 2013, a Public Service Co-Director may be sought.
  - b. **Public Information Officer (Chuck W3WZN):** No report.
  - c. **Education Director (Virginia NC4VA):** No report.
  - d. **Field Day Chair (Bob W4TTX):** Bob W4TTX provided an update on the number of QSOs logged during Field Day (3,874) and the total score (12,998 as of 7/22). Bob W4TTX reported that he

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would be ordering trophies for the winners of the antenna launching contest.

e. **FM Repeater Chair (Karl W4CHX):**

Karl W4CHX provided an update on the installation of the 145.13 repeater at the RTP tower site. Danny K4ITL will be scheduling repair of the repeater equipment. Due to logistics and expense, it has been decided that Cliff W4FT will draft plans for the repeater building and begin the permitting process; following approval, the building will be “stick-built” on site. At least one bid has been received for the electrical work that will be needed for the repeater building; Karl W4CHX is investigating a legal issue regarding a possible donation of electrical services.

f. **RARSFest Chair (John AI4RT):** No report.

g. **Exciter Chair (Courtney KI4HOS):** The Board discussed the progress to date in finding a replacement Exciter Editor. Courtney’s workload has increased recently, which makes it difficult to continue as the Exciter Editor. Karl W4CHX will follow-up on this matter.

h. **Hospitality Chair (Mary Jo K4MJL):** No report.

i. **Net Manager (Mary KG4OQA):** No report.

j. **ARRL Liaison (Chuck K4HF):** No report; however, Chuck K4HF mentioned that *QST* is now available in digital format.

k. **At-Large Director (Don WA4AVU):** No report.

l. **At-Large Director (Ken KI4OTO):** No report; however, Ken KI4OTO indicated that he was pleased that a RARS brochure was being developed.

m. **At-Large Director (Jack N6UYB):** No report.

n. **W4DW/W4RNC Trustee (Jeff AC4ZO):** No report.

o. **RARS VE Coordinators (Joe WA4GIR and Liz KO4CK):** No report. Karl W4CHX indicated that the RARS VE team would be conducting licensing exams at the Cary Mid-Summer Swapfest on July 21.

p. **RARS Webmaster (Hank K4HM):**  
Based on his email communication, Hank K4HM reported, “I have updated the web site to include the meeting topics for the next few months and the ARVN video of the Field Day setup and Antenna Launching Contest. I also put a link to the “standard” Auction information designed by Cliff that we have used over the years, which includes specific instructions for registering items to be sold at the auction.” Hank K4HM commented upon the difficulty in adapting item registration methods used for the RARSfest consignment table to the upcoming RARS auction. He also commented that registration forms and methods for the upcoming RARS auction need to be determined; and, he is ready to begin work on the webpages supporting the NC QSO Party for 2013. Finally, Hank K4HM commented, “Regarding the proposed RARS Brochure, you may want

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to look at the information on our website under RARS Resources. While it is not a brochure, and some of the information is out of date, there may be some useful information there.”

- q. **North Carolina QSO Party (Marty W4MY):** Based on his email communication, Marty W4MY reported: “I have touched base with Lisa Spahr regarding (her being the) September speaker. I solidified the arrangement and confirmed her appearance for the September general meeting. I will be booking her hotel room soon for one night in Raleigh and submitting the receipt to Greg (KE4PAX).” He went on to report that the “NCQP committee is having its first meeting July 28 at 1:00 p.m. at the Eva Perry Regional Library conference room. (text deleted) This (meeting) is an important one and everyone is stepping into their roles nicely. Getting the website up and going will be a priority.”

7. **Old business:**

- a. **New award for RARS members (Ken KI4OTO):** Ken KI4OTO reported that the proposed award program currently has 7 categories for achieving an award and that he is working on a certificate. He will continue to work on the award program.
- b. **ARRL licensing manuals for public libraries (Murray K4MHM):** According to Chuck K4HF, the licensing manuals have been distributed to the public libraries.

8. **New business:**

- a. **RARS’ participation in Maker Faire 2013 (Karl W4CHX):** Karl W4CHX

updated the Board on RARS’ participation in Maker Faire 2013. The subsequent discussions were focused on when to schedule a presentation on Maker Faire (probably November 2012), getting RARS members to participate, what to present at Maker Faire, and the 2013 dates of Maker Faire (third weekend in June?) vs ARRL Field Day (6/22-23).

- b. **RARS’ participation in Apex Harvest Festival (Karl W4CHX):** Karl W4CHX updated the Board on RARS’ possible participation in the Apex Harvest Festival. Although an announcement about the event was made at the last General Membership meeting (7/3), no RARS member has volunteered to lead the initiative. Karl W4CHX will send a message to the membership via the reflector. If there is no response, Karl W4CHX will notify the festival organizers that RARS appreciates, but declines, the invitation to participate in the event.

- c. **Request for speaker at Cary Library:** Chuck K4HF inquired about a request that had been received from the Cary Library for a speaker. Karl W4CHX replied that he had sent the request to the reflector and asked any interested party to respond directly. He will follow-up on this matter.

9. **Any other business:** Greg KE4PAX commented that equipment lists are still needed for the insurance policy and the SERA membership needs to be updated. Karl W4CHX will look into both matters.

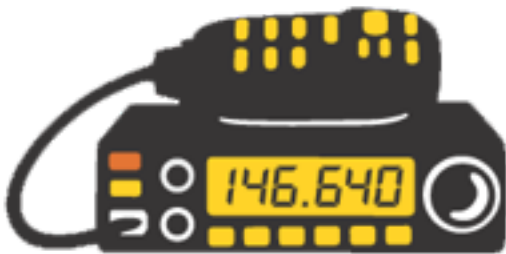
See **Board Meeting Minutes**, continued on p. 8

10. **Board member's comments:** John AI4RT commented that he had received positive comments about RARS participation in the Velo4Yellow ride (7/7); Ken KI4OTO made an inquiry about a possible addition to the presentation scheduled for the September meeting; CJ NC4CJ suggested that personal stories of WWII veterans such as the one Ken KI4OTO offered might be the subject of their own club meeting; Charles WB4DCM read an email communication from Bob KI4YXM which provided information on his tour of ARRL Headquarters and operating at W1AW; Bob W4TTX commented that the 2012 IARU HF World Championship contest last weekend was great (see note below); and Karl W4CHX inquired about the number of individuals going to dinner following the meeting.

11. Adjournment (Karl W4CHX): The meeting was adjourned at 8:43 p.m.

(NOTE: the order of items discussed at the meeting was different than the order of these Minutes)

(NOTE: the abbreviation, IARU, stands for International Amateur Radio Union, the federation of national amateur radio societies since 1925)



## Want to be a Published Author?

Everyone has a favorite aspect of amateur radio. From contests to antenna building, there's something for everyone in this great hobby. Why not share your interests, expertise, and experience with RARS in the Exciter? We welcome member and non-member/affiliate submissions.

Both technical and non-technical articles are welcome. You could write a short column about QSL cards or a longer how-to piece on setting up a new shack. And don't feel you have to write a novel; articles of all sizes are appreciated!

To submit an article, email your piece to the Editor ([editor@rars.org](mailto:editor@rars.org)). Please also feel free to attach pictures to accompany your article. It is helpful if you add captions and identify the people in photographs, and have their permission to use their image.

We look forward to learning from each other and broadening our club's knowledge base! Break out those pens, pencils, and keyboards and get writing!

### Mark Your Calendar!

## RARS Auction

**October 2 • First Alliance Church  
4400 Buffaloe Road, Raleigh**

Visit [www.RARS.org/auction.php](http://www.RARS.org/auction.php) for all the details.





# Minutes

## General Membership Meeting Raleigh Amateur Radio Society August 7, 2012

1. **Guests:** Karl W4CHX introduced the guest attendees: Lee Miller, KD4LLY; Elizabeth and Joseph Nichols; Evan McNabb, KJ4RCG; and, JoAnn and Gerry (W2GLA) Agliata. RARS Members were encouraged to greet and welcome our guests. There were 63 RARS members in attendance.
2. **Call to order:** Karl W4CHX called the meeting to order at 7:32 PM.
3. **Approval of minutes:** There was one change to the minutes correcting CJ's call sign (NC4CJ). The Minutes of the RARS General Membership meeting on July 3, 2012 were approved.
4. **Vice President's report (CJ NC4CJ):** Deferred to introduction of speaker.
5. **Treasurer's report (Greg KE4PAX):** RARS currently has 240 members. RARS has received a \$200.00 donation from L. Alexander. If any RARS member has any questions, please contact Greg KE4PAX or Karl W4CHX for further information.
6. **Announcements (Karl W4CHX):**
  - a. **New Editor for the RARS *Exciter*:** Karl W4CHX announced that Cathy Downs, KA3QPU, the XYL of Don WA4AVU, has accepted the position of Editor, RARS *Exciter*. He thanked Courtney Enzor, KI4HOS for her dedication and years of service as the former *Exciter* Editor. Courtney KI4HOS will be working with Cathy KA3QPU during the transition period.
  - b. **RARS participation in Maker Faire 2013:** Karl W4CHX reported that Woody Woodward, K3VSA will be making a presentation to RARS about the NC Maker Faire at the November, 2012 general membership meeting.
  - c. **RARS participation in Apex Harvest Festival:** Karl W4CHX reported that the Apex Harvest Festival has been cancelled for 2012. The organizers are re-grouping and planning on having the inaugural event in Fall, 2013. It is assumed that RARS will be asked again to participate in the event. If a RARS members would like to step forward and lead RARS' participation in the event, please contact Karl W4CHX for further information.
  - d. **Timers needed for 2012 NC Long Course Meters Swim Meet, Cary, NC, August 18-19, 2012:** Karl W4CHX announced that timers are needed for this state championship swim meet and he encouraged hams and their family members to volunteer as timers. For further information, please contact Karl W4CHX.

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- e. **Hams that have been hospitalized recently:** Karl W4CHX reported that he has received word that Carl King, KU4HM, and Dave Bamford, K4ENL have been hospitalized recently. It has been requested that we extend our thoughts and prayers for their well-being. Please see Karl W4CHX for further information about contacting these individuals.
  - f. **RARS Dinner:** second Tuesday, (8/14/12), 6:30 PM, Golden Corral, 6129 Glenwood Avenue (Hwy 70), monitor the 146.64 repeater on Tuesday (8/14) for any update information.
  - g. **RARS Board meeting:** third Tuesday (8/21/12), 7:00 PM, Triangle Radio Reading Service, 211 E. Six Forks Road, Suite 103; any RARS member is welcome to attend. For more information, contact any RARS officer.
  - h. **After meeting gathering:** The after meeting gathering will be held at Applebee's, Six Forks and Wake Forest Roads (by the Costco).
  - i. **Upcoming hamfests:** Please see the Exciter or the ARRL website for information on other hamfests.
  - 7. **Reports from RARS Board members and others:**
    - a. **Presentation of traffic training certificate (Dick KD4ISC):** Dick KD4ISC presented a traffic training certificate to Wade KK4BVR.
    - b. **ARRL Field Day 2012 Wrap Up (Bob W4TTX):** Bob W4TTX presented the ARRL Field Day wrap up, which included a short video presentation by Gary KN4AQ. Our score this year was 12,998. The winner(s) of the antenna "chunking" contest were: Mike Murphy, WA4BPJ, 1st Place in the Slingshot category for both distance and accuracy, and 1st place overall in that division. Al Sadowski, AH6LS, 1st place in the Power Assisted category for distance, and 1st place overall in that category. Jack Foster, N6UYB, 1st place in the power assisted category for accuracy. Honorable mention to Cliff Broughton, W4FT for power assisted accuracy.
  - c. **Public Service (John AI4RT):** John AI4RT talked about the upcoming Bike MS: Historic New Bern Ride. Ms. Paula Lipford, Director of Volunteer Engagement, National MS Society Greater Carolinas Chapter, thanked RARS members for their participation and support of the event.
  - 8. **Drawing:** The winners were Marty W4MY and Gary KJ4MNZ.
  - 9. **Vice President (CJ NC4CJ):** CJ NC4CJ announced that next month's presentation is "WW2 Radio Heroes, Letters of Compassion," by Ms. Lisa Spahr.
  - 10. **Program:** The program was titled, "All You Want to Know About Ham Station Grounding for Lightning Protection," which was presented by Tom Lewis, N4TL. He handed out a list of references for one to obtain additional information.
- Adjournment:** The meeting was adjourned at 8:59 p.m. by Karl W4CHX

## LOCAL AMATEUR RADIO NETS

The **Apex Emergency Response Communications Net** meets weekly each Sunday at 9 p.m. on the 146.640 repeater. The purpose of the net is to assist ham radio operators in preparing to respond to emergencies, test their equipment, improve operating skills, pass traffic, and to provide those with a common interest an opportunity to meet. The Apex ERC Net provides amateur radio emergency communications for The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-Day Saints' disaster relief efforts. All stations are invited to participate in this net.

Please join us on the **Carolina 440 Net** every Monday night at 7:30 p.m. This ragchew net utilizes the Carolina 440 UHF Link Repeater System. Comprised of the Raleigh, Down East, and Coastal Wilmington link systems, there are currently 19 repeaters on the system, covering 21,168 square miles. For a list of these repeaters, please visit [www.carolina440.net](http://www.carolina440.net).

Please join us each Tuesday at 9:15 p.m. on the 146.880 repeater for the **Central Carolina SKYWARN** net. On each net there are announcements, check-ins by county, and often a program or training spot. Check us out at [www.centralcarolinaskywarn.net](http://www.centralcarolinaskywarn.net).

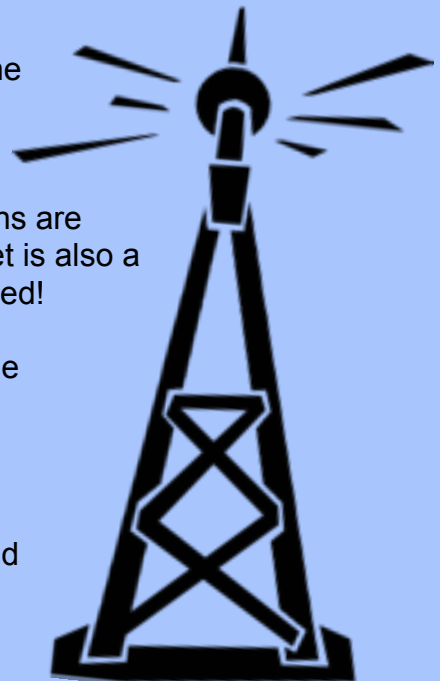
The **PCTN (Piedmont Costal Traffic Net)** meets daily at 9 p.m. on the 146.880 repeater. The purpose of the net is to handle/pass NTS formal messages. Amateur stations are encouraged to check in and participate. The backup repeater is the 147.105 (PL tone 82.5).

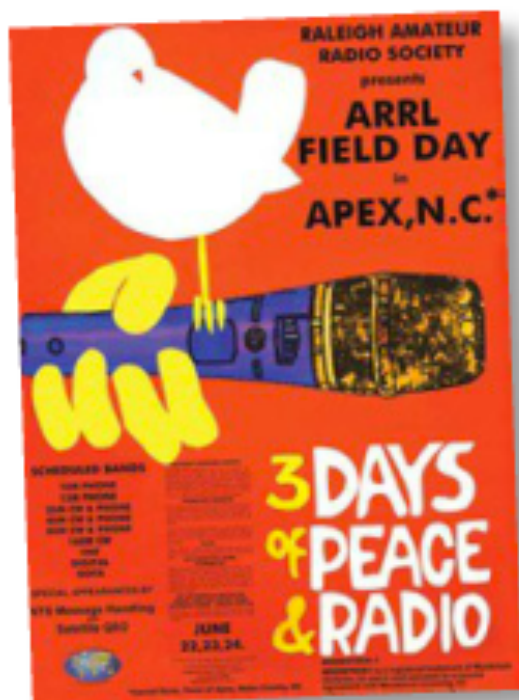
The **RARS Technical & Trader's Net** is held on Saturday evenings on the 146.640 repeater at 8:30 p.m.

Join us every evening at 8 p.m. on the 146.640 repeater for the **RARS Two-Meter Net**. You can give a ragchew, check in and out (this counts for our total numbers reported to the ARRL!), make announcements, and pass traffic. We also offer National Traffic System traffic training. All licensed stations are welcome to participate in the net as often as they can. This net is also a great way to learn about amateur radio if you are newly licensed!

The **VOIP Hurricane Net** is held Sundays at 00:00 UTC on the 146.775 repeater with a tone of 88.5 (IRLP node 4260). For information about activation details, go to [www.voipwx.net](http://www.voipwx.net).

The **Wake County ARES Net** meets Thursdays at 8:30 p.m. on the 146.640 repeater. We provide discussion and training for the implementation and provision of emergency communications for our served agencies, such as the American Red Cross and the local and state Emergency Operations Center. Please join us. For more information, check out [www.wakeares.org](http://www.wakeares.org).





**By the Time I Got to Field Day...** When Bob Starkenburg, W4TTX, of Raleigh, North Carolina set out to promote his club's Field Day operation, he thought of the iconic Woodstock Festival poster from the 1969 gathering of a half a million rock music fans. "We used the poster to make over 80 T-shirts for club members and visiting dignitaries," he writes. [poster designed by Bob Starkenburg, W4TTX, with permission from Woodstock Ventures and Bob Heil, K9EID]

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## RARS Classifieds

Want to add a new radio to your shack? Have an antenna for sale? Browse the RARS classifieds for new and used radio equipment at <http://rars.org/classifieds.php>.

RARS members may post notices about equipment they are selling. Posts last for 30 days and are editable at any time.

Using our classifieds is a great way for buyers to search for available items and for sellers to reach a local, targeted audience.

The Raleigh Amateur Radio Society's

# EXCITER

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PO Box 17124  
Raleigh, NC 27619

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